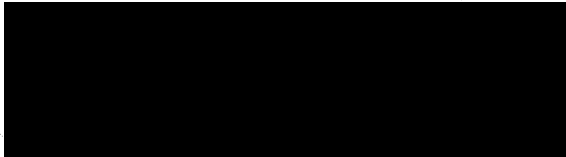


Identifying data ceased to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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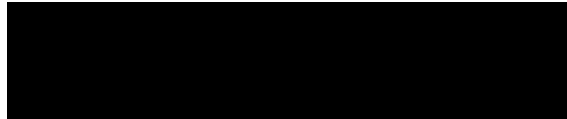
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Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

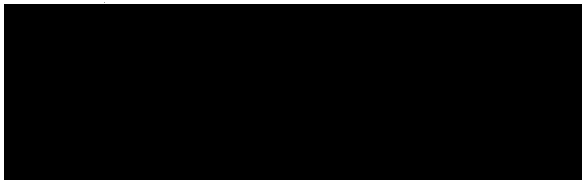
IN RE:

Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



JAN 26 2005

PETITION: Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(C)



**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

*Robert P. Wiemann*

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) dismissed a subsequent appeal. The matter is now before the AAO on a motion to reopen or reconsider. The motion to reopen or reconsider will be dismissed.

The motion is untimely. Under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i), a motion to reopen or reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen or reconsider. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b) states that whenever a person is required to act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period. The AAO issued its decision on September 4, 2003. The petitioner's motion to reopen or reconsider was returned to the petitioner for failure to pay the appropriate fee. The motion with the appropriate fee was received by the service center on November 4, 2003, 61 days after the AAO issued its decision. The motion was therefore filed untimely.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a) provides that the agency may, in its discretion, accept a motion beyond this time frame if the petitioner demonstrates that the delay was reasonable and beyond his or her control. The petitioner provides no evidence that the delay in filing his motion to reopen was reasonable and beyond his control.

**ORDER:** The motion is dismissed.